

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6222

BILL NUMBER: SB 200

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 19, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Covenant Marriage.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Clark

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☐ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

| STATE IMPACT | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| State Revenues | | | |
| State Expenditures | | 18,095 | 7,095 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | | (18,095) | (7,095) |

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines "covenant marriage". The bill provides that couples may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. It requires a marriage license to indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. It also establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. The bill requires the State Department of Health to maintain records of covenant marriage declarations. The bill further provides limited grounds for legal separation or dissolution of a covenant marriage. It requires the State Department of Health to develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The State Department of Health (SDOH) has identified some minimal costs to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage and in creating the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. Both of these costs can be absorbed within the existing SDOH budget. The Department also estimates that this bill would require approximately \$18,095 to implement in the first year: \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions

and \$7,095 for the first year and each year thereafter for additional printing and postage expenditures.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit Courts; Circuit Court Clerks.

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